

December 17, 2007

**Re:** Request For Information – High-Speed Internet Access Consulting Services

Dear Potential Vendor:

The Rural High-Speed Internet Access Taskforce is seeking information from entities and consultants with experience in planning and assisting a process for providing broadband Internet services to rural areas in Missouri not currently serviced with broadband Internet services. The goal is to create a plan, timeline and incentive model for private enterprises or public-private partnership to offer Missouri households broadband Internet services that are affordable to the consumer and economically viable to the service provider.

### BACKGROUND

In an effort to provide high-speed Internet access to Missouri's unserved and underserved households, the Governor of Missouri has issued an executive order creating and establishing The Rural High-Speed Internet Access Task Force representing individuals, organizations, and industries impacted by the unavailability of high-speed Internet services predominately in rural areas of Missouri.

The task force is charged with:

- 1) Assessing the current level of Internet access available in Missouri;
- 2) Identifying barriers to deployment to underserved areas including economic, geographic, regulatory, and market barriers;
- 3) Identifying potential options to increase the deployment of high-speed Internet access in underserved communities;
- 4) Reviewing best practices in other states to increase high-speed Internet access; and,
- 5) Recommending statutory, regulatory, and policy changes needed to increase the availability of high-speed Internet services across Missouri.

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

This RFI provides an opportunity for respondents to submit their information relevant to assisting the Task Force in meeting the charges identified by the Governor. The comprehensive program will include but not be limited to:

1. Street Level Broadband Infrastructure Mapping clearly demonstrating areas not served by broadband Internet and in those areas that are served, the level and type of broadband Internet service;
2. Strategy and survey of projects for rural broadband Internet penetration in other states as well as their positive and negative performance attributes (market intelligence);
3. Consulting cost (flat rate and fixed staffed hour rate) and time estimates for working with local communities in establishing a plan for providing a commercially viable broadband Internet solution to unserved and underserved areas;
4. Process and plan for implementing a strategy for demand creation and community level by enlisting local community leaders to develop and implement technology growth strategies for local government, business, and industry involvement in roll-out of a commercially viable broadband Internet service to unserved and underserved areas; and

5. Other ideas and associated costs for allowing broadband Internet penetration into unserved and underserved areas of Missouri, e.g., providing subsidized or donated computers with high-speed Internet capabilities to lower income households.

As an initial step in the procurement process, the attached Request for Information has been prepared to assist the Rural High-Speed Internet Access Taskforce in fully understanding the scope of services available to Missourians. After receiving the RFI responses, the State of Missouri may begin drafting a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) document and conduct a competitive procurement process.

If your organization is willing to submit general information for one or all of the above bullet points, please submit your written response as well as in electronic format on a CD or DVD disc to this document to my attention **NO LATER THAN January 7, 2008**, at the following address in accordance with instructions contained in the attached document:

Attention: Jerry Dowell  
*Office of Lt. Governor Peter Kinder*  
*201 West Capitol*  
*State Capitol Building, Room 224*  
*Jefferson City, MO 65101.*

If you should have any questions, please contact me at 573-751-4727 or [jerry.dowell@ltgov.mo.gov](mailto:jerry.dowell@ltgov.mo.gov).

Sincerely,

Jerry Dowell  
Taskforce Director  
Rural High-Speed Internet Access Taskforce

Attachment



**STATE OF MISSOURI**  
**Rural High-Speed Internet Access Taskforce**  
**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**RE: High-Speed Internet Consulting Services**

**AGENCY: State of Missouri**

**RESPONSE DUE DATE:** January 7, 2008

**SEND RESPONSE TO:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**CONTACT:** Jerry Dowell  
**PHONE:** (573) 751-4727  
**FAX:** (573) 751-9612  
**EMAIL:** [jerry.dowell@ltgov.mo.gov](mailto:jerry.dowell@ltgov.mo.gov)

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**VENDOR INFORMATION**

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPANY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_